

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Title:	PARTITION MOUNT WITH EXTENDED-LENGTH HEAD	

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any correspondence referred to as being attached or enclosed is being sent by electronic submission to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated next to my name.

8/3/06
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Via Electronic Submission

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AMENDMENT C

Sir:

The following is in response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2006. A petition for a one-month extension of the time period in which to respond is filed concurrently herewith.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

A Listing of Claims begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 19-27 with the following amended paragraph:

The head 16 includes an elongated rail 40 and a compressible pad 18, for example a foam block. The rail 40 may comprise, for example, an extruded member formed of plastic, aluminum, or alloy, and having a “U”-shaped profile as shown. The pad 18 is mounted in cavity 19 of the [[body]]rail 40, and may be press-fit, or otherwise bonded in place. The pad 18, is, for example, rectangular in shape and may be formed of low-density foam or rubber, having a certain degree of compressibility so as to conform to an abutting surface, while still exhibiting resiliency and shape memory. The [[body]]rail 40 further includes a horizontal groove 56 on each outer side surface for interfacing with the retention tabs 54 on the arms 68 of the coupler 20, and central slot 58, for interfacing with the pin 66 on the body of the coupler 20.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 11-21 with the following amended paragraph:

FIGs. 4A and 4B are side views of the coupler 20 being coupled to a head 16, in accordance with the present invention. In FIG. 4A, a neck 21 and ball 60 of the jack assembly are pushed into the socket 62 of the coupler. With reference to FIG. 4B, once inserted, the ball 60 is press-fit into the socket 62, while neck retainers 52, extending from the body 50 prevent motion in the lateral direction, as indicated by arrows 76. In addition, with reference to the top view of the ball 60 and neck 21 assembly of FIG. 4C, the neck can be provided with a flange [[63]] 61 having flat edge features 63 as shown. The flat edges 63 of the flange [[60]] 61 are configured such that, when the ball is mounted into the socket, as shown in FIG. 4B, the flat edges 63 interface with the inner surfaces of the neck retainers 52, thereby preventing horizontal pivot of the head 16 assembly about the neck 21, as indicated by arrow 77. In this manner, greater control over the positioning of the head can be realized during mounting.

Listing of claims:

Please amend claim 45 as follows.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A mount comprising:
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis,
 - a curtain interface coupled to an upper surface of the body;
 - a coupler adapted for coupling the elongated body to a mounting member, the coupler including an interface adapted to receive a mounting member, the coupling position of the coupler being adjustable over a range of positions relative to the longitudinal axis of the body; and
 - a mounting member comprising a pole for mounting to the coupler, the body being rotatable relative to the mounting pole, the mounting pole including a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof.
2. (Original) The mount of claim 1 wherein the curtain interface comprises a compressible material.
3. (Previously Presented) The mount of claim 2 wherein the compressible material is one selected from the group of materials consisting of foam, polyurethane foam, extruded vinyl, and rubber strips.
4. (Original) The mount of claim 1 wherein the body comprises a rail.
5. (Original) The mount of claim 4 wherein the rail includes a U-shaped slot and wherein the curtain interface is mounted in the slot.
6. (Original) The mount of claim 4 wherein the rail comprises an extrusion.

7. (Original) The mount of claim 1 wherein the coupler is removably mountable to the body
8. (Original) The mount of claim 7 wherein the coupler further includes quick-release arms that engage a feature on the body for removably mounting the coupler to the body.
9. (Original) The mount of claim 1 wherein the position of the coupler on the body can be adjusted variably.
10. (Original) The mount of claim 1 wherein the position of the coupler is determined according to indexed positions on the body.
11. (Previously Presented) The mount of claim 1 wherein the interface of the coupler is adapted to receive the mounting pole.
12. (Previously Presented) The mount of claim 11 wherein the coupler includes one of a ball and a socket joint for receiving a corresponding one of a socket and a ball joint of the mounting pole.
13. (Original) The mount of claim 12 wherein the coupler further includes a retainer for preventing lateral rotation of the body relative to the mounting pole.
14. (Previously Presented) The mount of claim 13 wherein the ball joint of the mounting pole further includes a flange having a flat surface for interfacing with the retainers for preventing horizontal pivot of the body about the mounting pole.
15. (Original) The mount of claim 1 wherein a length of the body is substantially greater than a width of the body.

16. (Original) The mount of claim 15 wherein the length of the body is at least 1 ft.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The mount of claim 1 wherein the mounting pole is adjustable in length.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Previously Presented) A mounting system comprising:
 - an adjustable-length pole, the pole including a compression mechanism to allow for compression along an longitudinal axis thereof;
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis,
 - a curtain interface coupled to an upper surface of the body; and
 - a coupler for rotatably coupling the pole to the body, the coupler limiting lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting rotation of the body relative to the pole in another direction of rotation.
21. (Previously Presented) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the coupler rotatably couples the pole to the body such that the longitudinal axis of pole is parallel to, or lies in, a rotational plane of the longitudinal axis of the body.
22. (Original) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the coupler removably couples the pole to the body.
23. (Original) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the curtain interface comprises a compressible material.

24. (Original) The mounting system of claim 23 wherein the compressible material is one selected from the group of materials consisting of foam, polyurethane foam, extruded vinyl, and rubber strips.
25. (Original) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the body comprises a rail.
26. (Original) The mounting system of claim 25 wherein the rail includes a U-shaped slot and wherein the curtain interface is mounted in the slot.
27. (Original) The mounting system of claim 25 wherein the rail comprises an extrusion.
28. (Original) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the coupler is removably mountable to the body.
29. (Original) The mounting system of claim 28 wherein the coupler further includes quick-release arms that engage a feature on the body for removably mounting the coupler to the body.
30. (Original) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the position of the coupler is adjustable relative to the longitudinal axis of the body.
31. (Original) The mounting system of claim 30 wherein the position of the coupler on the body can be adjusted variably.
32. (Original) The mounting system of claim 30 wherein the position of the coupler is determined according to indexed positions on the body.
33. (Original) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the coupler includes a socket for

receiving a ball joint of the pole.

34. (Original) The mounting system of claim 33 wherein the coupler further includes a retainer for preventing lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole.
35. (Previously Presented) The mounting system of claim 34 wherein the ball joint of the pole further includes a flange having a flat surface for interfacing with the retainers for preventing horizontal pivot of the body about the pole.
36. (Original) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein a length of the body is substantially greater than a width of the body.
37. (Original) The mounting system of claim 36 wherein the length of the body is at least 1 ft.
38. (Previously Presented) The mounting system of claim 20 wherein the coupler comprises a hinge that rotatably couples the body relative to the pole.
39. (Canceled)
40. (Canceled)
41. (Canceled)
42. (Canceled)
43. (Previously presented) A mount comprising:
 - a pole;
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis,

a curtain interface coupled to an upper surface of the body; and

a coupler for rotatably coupling the pole to the body, wherein the position of the coupler is adjustable relative to the longitudinal axis of the body and is determined according to indexed positions on the body.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A mount comprising:

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis,

a curtain interface coupled to an upper surface of the body; and

a coupler adapted for coupling the elongated body to a mounting member, the coupler including an interface adapted to receive a mounting member in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the body, the coupling position of the coupler being adjustable over a range of positions relative to the longitudinal axis of the body, wherein the position of the coupler is determined according to indexed positions on the body that are spaced apart by a fixed distance along the longitudinal axis of the body.

46. (Previously Presented) A mounting system comprising:

an adjustable-length pole;

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis,

a curtain interface coupled to an upper surface of the body; and

a coupler for rotatably coupling the pole to the body, the coupler limiting lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting rotation of the body relative to the pole in another direction of rotation, wherein the coupler comprises a hinge that rotatably couples the body relative to the pole.

47. (Previously Presented) A mounting system comprising:

an adjustable-length pole including a compression mechanism to allow for

compression of the pole along a longitudinal axis thereof;

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis;

a curtain interface on an upper surface of the body; and

a coupler that couples the pole to the body so that the longitudinal axis of the pole is transverse to the longitudinal axis of the body.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 18, 20-38, 43 and 45-47 are pending in the present application. Claim 45 is amended above. No new matter is added by the amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

The Applicant notes, with appreciation, that the Office Action indicates at page 3, paragraph 4, that claims 1-16, 18, 20-38, 43, 46 and 47 are allowed.

The specification is objected to for reasons stated in the Office Action. The specification is amended above in a manner consistent with suggestions provided in the Office Action. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claim 45 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent Number 4,926,522). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In the present invention as claimed in independent claim 45, a mount includes an elongated body having a longitudinal axis, a curtain interface coupled to an upper surface of the body and a coupler adapted for coupling the elongated body to a mounting member in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the body. The position of the coupler is adjustable over a range of positions relative to the longitudinal axis of the body. The position of the coupler is determined according to indexed positions on the body that are spaced apart by a fixed distance along the longitudinal axis of the body.

Wang fails to teach or suggest a mount including a coupler that includes "an interface adapted to receive a mounting member in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the body," as claimed in claim 45. In Wang, the threaded stud insert 62 of the rod 71 mates with the end of the pole 11 in a manner such that the pole 11 and rod 71 are co-axial, and therefore are not transverse to each other.

Wang further fails to teach or suggest a mount in which a “position of the coupler is determined according to indexed positions on the body that are spaced apart by a fixed distance along the longitudinal axis of the body,” as claimed in independent claim 45. In Wang, while the position of the adaptor 65 can be adjusted relative to the pole 11 by rotating the adaptor 65 relative to the pole 11 about threaded stud insert 62, as asserted in the Office Action, such rotational adjustment does not affect the position of the rod 71 (asserted in the Office Action as being analogous to the “elongated body” of claim 45) relative to the adaptor 65 (asserted in the Office Action as being analogous to the “coupler” of claim 45). Therefore, such rotational adjustment does not result in the rod 71 and adapter 65 having indexed positions relative to each other. Nor does Wang teach that the position of the rod 71 relative to the adapter 65 is determined according to indexed positions on the body of the rod 71 that are spaced apart by a fixed distance along the longitudinal axis of the rod 71.

It is therefore submitted that Wang fails to teach or suggest a mount including a coupler that includes “an interface adapted to receive a mounting member in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the body,” and in which a “position of the coupler is determined according to indexed positions on the body that are spaced apart by a fixed distance along the longitudinal axis of the body,” as claimed in independent claim 45. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of independent claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang, and allowance of the claim, are respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

It is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 501798 in the amount of \$60.00 and for any additional fees which may be due or to credit any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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